

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 IO-03

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R 081741Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2414

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21459

LIMDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO QUAI'S ACTING DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, GOF IS REASONABLY CONTENT WITH CURRENT SITUATION. GOF HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY RECENT DECLARATIONS BY US OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS AND SISCO COMMENTS TO ISRAELI TELEVISION, AND NOTED UNCERTAINTY THAT THESE STATEMENTS HAVE PRODUCED IN ISRAELI OFFICIAL CIRCLES. QUAI BELIEVES THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS DELIGHTED WITH OUTCOME OF UNSC DEBATE, THEY ALSO UNCERTAIN ABOUT FUTURE. FRENCH THINK MAINTENANCE OF UNCERTAINTIES ON BOTH SIDES USEFUL WHILE SEARCH FOR PEACE GOES ON, BUT GOF EXPECTS NO REAL PROGRESS UNTIL AFTER ISRAELI ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 7 QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON ANALYSED CURRENT SITUATION IN AREA AND COMMENTED ON IMPRESSION HE HAD GAINED FROM RECENT MEETINGS WITH VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS ZAYYAT OF EGYPT AND SAQQAF OF SAUDI ARABIA. ROUILLON BEGAN BY NOTING SPATE OF DECLARATION IN US BY MOBIL OIL AND STANDARD OF CALIFORNIA, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI TELEVISION. ARABS, HE SAID, WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED BY THESE STATEMENTS, AND, LIKE FRENCH, HAD BEEN STRUCK BY REPORTS OF SISCO INTERVIEW, PARTICULARLY HIS COMMENT THAT IT WOULD BE "FOOLHARDY" TO BELIEVE ENERGY QUESTION NOT A FACTOR IN US POLICY. ROUILLON SAID THAT ISRAELIS WERE DISTURBED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS. ACCORDING TO REPORT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV, ISRAELI OFFICIALS INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL THAT UNSC RESULT HAD REALLY BEEN SATISFACTORY FROM GOI POINT OF VIEW, EVEN WITH US VETO. ROUILLON NOTED THAT IN TEL AVIV THERE WAS INCREASING EMPHASIS ON REASONABLENESS OF SADAT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

2. EGYPTIANS, ON OTHER HAND, WERE DELIGHTED WITH RESULTS OF UNSC DEBATE, EGYPTIAN POSITION HAD NOT ONLY BEEN ENDORSED BY TRADITIONAL NON-ALIGNED AND EASTERN BLOC FRIENDS, BUT BY LATIN AMERICANS, NATO MEMBERS AND NEUTRALS SUCH AS AUSTRIA WHILE EGYPTIANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE US SUPPORT OR ABSTENTION, THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY NOW HAVE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE FOR THEIR INTERPRETATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242. SPEAKING PERSONALLY WITH ROUILLON SAID THAT US VETO HAD BEEN USEFUL IN MAINTAINING EGYPTIAN UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT FUTURE COURSE OF US POLICY, AT TIME WHEN EGYPTIANS ALSO UNCERTAIN ABOUT DEGREE TO WHICH THEY COULD COUNT ON RUSSIAN SUPPORT.

3. EMBOFF AGREED THAT ISRAELIS WERE UNEASY AND THAT THERE WERE SOME SIGNS OF MORE NUANCED ISRAELI POSITIONS AS EVIDENCED FOR EXAMPLE BY EBAN INTERVIEW WITH NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR (PARIS 21272 NOTAL). ROUILLON SPECULATED ABOUT POSSIBLE EVOLUTION ISRAELI POSITION ON EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SINAI. ROUILLON SAID THAT ISRAELI ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY WOULD INDEED BE FORWARD STEP. HOWEVER IT WOULD REQUIRE CLEAR STATEMENT FROM AUTHORITATIVE ISRAELI

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GOVERNMENT SOURCE, EITHER CABINET OR PARLIAMENT IN ORDER TO BE CREDIBLE, GIVEN PROPENSITY OF ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO CONTRADICT EACH OTHER IN TALKING ABOUT SETTLEMENT TERMS. EVEN SO, AS LONG AS GOI CONTINUED TO INSIST ON ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE AT SHARM EL SHEIKH, HE THOUGHT ARABS WOULD NOT ACCEPT. ON OTHER HAND HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT IF ISRAELIS COULD ACCEPT CONTROL THROUGH UN OR OTHER THIRD PARTIES, NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN ALMOST AT ONCE.

4. CONVERSATION TURNED BRIEFLY TO QUESTION OF PALESTINIANS. IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER ROULLON QUESTION ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF REFERENCE TO "LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS" IN NIXON-BREZHNEV COMMUNIQUE, EMBOFF EXPLAINED DISTINCTION WHICH USG DREW BETWEEN PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS, LATTER OF WHICH RULES OUT EXTREME PALESTINIAN POSITION DEMANDING ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL. ROULLON SAID THAT GOF MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS. FRENCH WILLING TO USE FORMULATION "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" WITHOUT IMPLYING GOF ENDORSEMENT OF ANY PARTICULAR PALESTINIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIM OR SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

6. ON WALDHEIM MISSION ROULLON SAID FRENCH CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD ACHIEVE NOTHING, EXCEPT GAIN TIME. THAT, HOWEVER, WAS USEFUL IN ITSELF SINCE IT WAS UN-REALISTIC TO EXPECT ANY PROGRESS ON SUBSTANCE BEFORE ISRAELI ELECTIONS. THEREAFTER ARABS AND OTHERS WOULD BE LOOKING TO SEE WHAT US MIGHT DO. ROULLON SAID GOF UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION THAT SECURITY COUNCIL VEO DESIGNED TO PRESERVE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATION PROCESS. OBVIOUSLY ARABS SCEPTICAL, BUT GOF DID NOT QUESTION US GOOD INTENTIONS, HOPED THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR SETTLEMENT AND WERE IMPRESSED BY RECENT SIGNS (I.E. SISCO INTERVIEWS) THAT USG MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO NUDGE ISRAELIS FORWARD.  
STONE

NOTE BY OCT: PARIS 21459 NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005